

**Claims:**

- 5                   1. A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:  
                    providing network management access through a user profile including:  
                    defining management capabilities through the user profile; and  
                    listing network devices capable of being managed through the user profile.
- 10                   2. The method of claim 1, wherein providing network management access  
                    further comprises:  
                    displaying a user interface in accordance with the user profile.
- 15                   3. The method of claim 2, wherein providing network management access  
                    further comprises:  
                    receiving a user name and password; and  
                    comparing the received user name and password against values stored within  
the user profile.
- 20                   4. The method of claim 1, wherein defining management capabilities comprises:  
                    assigning an access level corresponding to specific management capabilities.
- 25                   5. The method of claim 4, wherein assigning an access level comprises:  
                    assigning an administrator access level to permit a user to read and write  
physical and logical objects.
- 30                   6. The method of claim 4, wherein assigning an access level comprises:  
                    assigning a provisioner access level to permit a user to read physical  
objects and read and write logical objects.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein assigning an access level comprises:  
                    assigning a customer access level to permit a user to read their logical  
objects.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein listing network devices comprises:  
listing a telecommunication network address for each network device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein listing network devices further comprises:  
listing an SNMP community string for each network device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein listing network devices further comprises:  
listing an SNMP retry value for each network device.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein listing network devices further comprises:  
listing an SNMP timeout value for each network device.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
designating a primary network management server associated with the  
user profile.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
designating a secondary network management server associated with the  
user profile.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
setting network management policy flags within the user profile.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein setting network management policy flags  
comprises:  
setting a password control policy flag to enable a user to change a  
password within the user profile.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein setting network management policy flags  
comprises:

setting an account disabled policy flag to disable the user profile and prevent access.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein setting network management policy flags comprises:

setting an add device policy flag to enable a user to add network devices to the list of devices capable of being managed through the user profile.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface (GUI).

19. A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:

adding a user profile to a network management system;

editing parameters within the user profile to establish management capabilities and a list of network devices capable of being managed through the user profile.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the network management system includes a plurality of user profiles and where the method further comprises:

receiving a user name and password;

comparing the received user name and password against user names and passwords stored in the plurality of user profiles; and

displaying a user interface in accordance with a user profile including the received user name and password.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving input from a user through the user interface;

configuring a network device from the list of network devices within the user profile in accordance with the management capabilities in the user profile.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein configuring a network device comprises:

enabling a network device port on the network device.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving input from a user through the user interface;

5 provisioning services within a network device from the list of network devices within the user profile in accordance with the management capabilities in the user profile.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein provisioning services within a network device comprises:

10 setting up a SONET path within the network device.

25. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

receiving user profile data from a user; and

15 modifying parameters within the user profile in accordance with the received user profile data.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

copying the user profile to another user profile; and

20 editing parameters within the other user profile to establish management capabilities and a list of network devices capable of being managed through the other user profile.

25